

teeth. Ten feet farther up the hill and where the ground was less wet was another cluster of plants resembling the latter in size and general features but with only a few flattened teeth, one having not more than a dozen, while near the top of the slope and on drier ground were a number of plants showing no flattened teeth whatever. The conclusion would appear to be that growth in wet ground tends to develop flattened teeth. Aside from the flattened character of the teeth these plants would be referred to form β , which I have never observed growing in very wet places. Form γ , however, has been observed always in wet springy places and shows no tendency to the flattening of the teeth.

The various forms of *H. repanda* have been thus fully discussed in order to point out the great variability of this species and to emphasize the need as well as the opportunity for thorough field-work on the forms, habitat, and distribution of this common yet little understood plant.

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THE BOTANICAL MEETING AT McCALL'S FERRY, PENNSYLVANIA

BY GEORGE V. NASH

As announced in the June number of this journal, the joint meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club and the Philadelphia Botanical Club took place at McCall's Ferry, the week of July 2-9. The meeting proved to be a most enjoyable affair, and much of this enjoyment was the result of the care and endeavor on the part of the members of the Philadelphia club, several of whom acted as guides and led us to the haunts of rare and interesting plants. Certainly the event was a memorable one. Friends and members of other botanical societies accepted the joint invitation of the two clubs, and added much to the pleasure of the meeting by their presence.

Headquarters were established at the hotel on the York county

side of the river, a hostelry most pleasant, where comfort was dispensed by the agreeable host, and where food was good and in plenty, both prime requisites to a horde of hungry botanists, whose appetites were none of the lightest after an all-day tramp, with perhaps little if any refreshment for the midday meal.

The little village of McCall's Ferry is located about twenty-five miles north of Havre-de-Grace, on the west bank of the Susquehanna, that river of rocks, shallow waters and varying width. Below this point the stream is very wide ; for instance, at Peach Bottom, a few miles below, it is about one and a half miles from shore to shore, while but a short distance above the hotel it is very narrow, and, as a member of the party expressed it, the river appeared to have turned over on its edge, for at this point it is extremely deep. Hills are on every side, and deep and shaded ravines with purling mountain brooks are frequently met with. The mountain-sides and ravines are often adorned with large masses of *Rhododendron maximum*, and as this was in full bloom during our visit the effect was most charming.

The river is filled with islands, some of these but small rocks, while others are of considerable size, a mile or so in extent. This rocky feature seems to be characteristic of this river, for at Harrisburg, where the writer spent many years, and at Rockville and Dauphin, just to the north of it, the river presents the same appearance. Many of these islands, high and dry at the time of our visit, which was at low water, are aflood early in the season, some of the smaller ones buried under many feet of water, and places where we walked dry-shod would be a howling chaos of rushing waters. The writer has often seen this same river in these moods, and at such times it is not to be trifled with. It is on these islands that many plants of unusual interest to that region are to be found. One of these, probably brought down by the river from its more northern reaches, is *Veronica scutellata* L., hitherto, I believe, found no further south than New York state. Its occurrence so far south was quite a surprise, but its tenure may be but a short one, for the next high flood may reach it and wash it away, and another botanical locality will live only in history or in the few specimens preserved.

This must be the fate of many such plants, and the character of the island flora must therefore be constantly changing.

McCall's Ferry is not the place it once was in the prosperous days of the canal, when the swish of the tow-line and the expressive if not elegant language of the driver broke in upon the stillness around. The canal is but a ditch, fast filling up, and locks and banks are rapidly crumbling away. Nature does not tarry long in razing the works of man, for it is but ten years since the canal was in active operation. But its delightful surroundings; these remain, the homes of rare and interesting plants. Many of these were seen for the first time by some members of the party growing in their native haunts. Among them were several ferns, including *Asplenium Bradleyi* and *A. montanum*. It is quite a delight to see in their living freshness plants which one has known by name only or from herbarium specimens.

Many excursions were made to surrounding points, including visits to York Furnace and Tucquan Creek. It is to be hoped that these "symposia" may be held every year, and that they may all be as successful and a source of as much pleasure and delight as has this one. An opportunity was afforded this year for the active botanists of this eastern country to get together and compare notes, and it can but broaden the views of all and add much to the accumulating knowledge of the botany of the eastern states.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF HEXALECTRIS AND APLECTRUM

BY JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART

The genus *Hexalectris* was proposed by Rafinesque in 1825, and republished by him in later years. It was monotypic, being based upon "*Bletia aphylla* Nutt. or *Arethusa spicata* Walt." As these two names have been identified by recent writers with plants belonging to two distinct genera, it has proved of no little interest to me to trace their history.

Walter's original description of *Arethusa spicata* is as follows :